राज्य सरकार को वहां के किसानों की मदद करने के लिए कुछ राशि का प्रावधान किया गया था। इस पर राज्य सरकार ने डिस्ट्रीब्यूशन किया, ऐसी रिपोर्ट भी हमारे पास है।

SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Sir, the hon. Minister has told us that the Government of Andhra Pradesh and the Government of Maharashtra have instituted some inquiries. I would like to know from the Government of India, through the Minister, whether the Government is taking suicide as a serious issue and institute a special inquiry commission for India as a whole to find out the reasons behind it.

SHRI SHARAD PAWAR: The Commission which has been appointed under the Chairmanship of Dr. Swaminathan is already going in detail over this particular subject. Some preliminary suggestions have been given to us by them.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Cut in food subsidy

*1. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have decided to impose a cut in food subsidy;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether all political parties have requested Government to review its decision; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) ahd (b) In order to rationalise the allocation of foodgrains under the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS), ensure that the food subsidy remains targeted towards poor households, and keeping in view the reduced availability of foodgrains in the Central Pool, the Government took the following decisions on 6.1.2006:

(i) For Above Poverty Line (APL) households, allocation of foodgrains to State Governments to be fixed on the basis of

20 kg. per family per month from the earlier allocation of 35 kg. per family per month, or the offtake during 2004-05, whichever is lower.

(ii) For Below Poverty Line (BPL) and Antyodaya households, the allocation of foodgrains to States to be fixed on the basis of 30 kg. per family per month from the existing 35 kg. per family per month.

(iii) The APL Central Issue Prices (CIPs) of foodgrains, which were last fixed in July, 2001, to be revised upwards by Rs. 85 per quintal and Rs. 95 per quintal for wheat and rice respectively.

(iv) The BPL CIPs, which were last fixed in July, 2000, to be continued at the same level.

(v) The Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) CIPs at Rs. 2 per kg. and Rs. 3 per kg. for wheat and rice respectively to be continued without change.

(c) and (d) A few State Governments represented that the implementation of the decisions taken on 06.1.2006 may adversely affect the functioning of the TPDS in their States and lead to large expenditure from the State Government budgets. Representations were also received from several political parties that the decision may adversely affect the food security of poor households. Keeping in view these representations, the Government has decided that the implementation of the decision may be postponed for some time.

Purchase of stationery etc.

*5. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government departments are to purchase stationery and other items from agencies authorized by Government;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for the Railways not adhering to these instructions; and

(c) what steps his Ministry proposes to take to strictly follow Government instructions and to scrap the Railway Board instructions circumventing the Government instructions?